

What is claimed is:

1. A photometric device for performing the steps of:

a) performing photometry in a predetermined area of an overall area where photometry can be performed;

b) performing photometry in a plurality of subareas formed by dividing at least a part of said predetermined area; and

c) when a difference greater than a predetermined value exists among the photometric results in said subareas, correcting the photometric result in said predetermined area based on the photometric results in said subareas and determining backlight based on the corrected photometric result.

2. The photometric device according to claim 1, wherein the photometric result in said predetermined area is corrected on the basis of a ratio of an average value of the photometric results in said plurality of subareas to a value indicating the highest luminance or lowest luminance of the photometric results in said plurality of subareas.

3. The photometric device according to claim 1, wherein the photometric result in said predetermined area is corrected on the basis of a proportion of photometric

results falling within a predetermined high-luminance range or low-luminance range of the photometric results in said plurality of subareas.

4. The photometric device according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein backlight is determined when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists between the photometric result in said predetermined area and a photometric result in a peripheral area around said predetermined area.

5. The photometric device according to any of claims 1 to 4, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area of said plurality of photoelectric conversion means or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area, and

values corresponding to the outputs from the respective photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area are used as the photometric results in

said subareas.

6. The photometric device according to any of claims 1 to 5, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area of said plurality of photoelectric conversion means or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area, and

a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means other than the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said peripheral area.

7. The photometric device according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein backlight is determined when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists between the photometric result in said predetermined area and a photometric result in said overall area.

8. The photometric device according to claim 7,

comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area of said plurality of photoelectric conversion means or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area, and

a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from the photoelectric conversion means in said overall area is used as the photometric result in said overall area.

9. The photometric device according to claim 4, 6, or 8, wherein a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area when at least one of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means is less than a predetermined value, and a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area when all the outputs from the

photoelectric conversion means are greater than the predetermined value.

10. A photometric device for performing the steps of:

a) performing photometry in a predetermined area of an overall area where photometry can be performed;

b) setting a reference value for backlight determination based on a difference between the photometric result in said predetermined area and a photometric result in a peripheral area around said predetermined area or a photometric result in said overall area; and

c) when a difference greater than a predetermined value exists among photometric results in subareas formed by dividing at least a part of said predetermined area, correcting said reference value based on the photometric results in said subareas.

11. The photometric device according to claim 10, wherein said reference value is corrected on the basis of a ratio of an average value of the photometric results in said plurality of subareas to a value indicating the highest luminance or lowest luminance of the photometric results in said plurality of subareas.

12. The photometric device according to claim 10, wherein

said reference value is corrected on the basis of a proportion of photometric results falling within a predetermined high-luminance range or low-luminance range of the photometric results in said plurality of subareas.

13. The photometric device according to any of claims 10 to 12, wherein backlight is determined when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists between the photometric result in said predetermined area and the photometric result in the peripheral area around said predetermined area.

14. The photometric device according to any of claims 10 to 13, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area of said plurality of photoelectric conversion means or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area,

values corresponding to the outputs from the respective photoelectric conversion means included in said

predetermined area are used as the photometric results in said subareas, and

a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from specific photoelectric conversion means other than the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said peripheral area.

15. The photometric device according to any of claims 10 to 12, wherein backlight is determined when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists between the photometric result in said predetermined area and the photometric result in said overall area.

16. The photometric device according to claim 15, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area of said plurality of photoelectric conversion means or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area,

values corresponding to the outputs from the respective photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area are used as the photometric results in said subareas, and

a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from the photoelectric conversion means in said overall area is used as the photometric result in said overall area.

17. The photometric device according to claim 14 or 16, wherein a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area when at least one of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means is less than a predetermined value, and a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area when all the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means are greater than the predetermined value.

18. A photometric device for performing the steps of:

a) performing photometry in a predetermined area of an overall area where photometry can be performed;



b) determining any of a plurality of subareas including an object for which backlight is determined on the basis of information on measured distance in at least a part of said predetermined area, said plurality of subareas being formed by dividing at least a part of said predetermined area; and

c) correcting the photometric result in said predetermined area based on a photometric result in the subarea including said object, and determining backlight based on the corrected photometric result.

19. The photometric device according to claim 18, wherein photometry and distance measurement are performed in each of said plurality of subareas.

20. The photometric device according to claim 18 or 19, wherein a detection element for performing distance measurement also performs photometry.

21. The photometric device according to any of claims 18 to 20, wherein the photometric result in said predetermined area is corrected on the basis of a proportion of the subarea including said object of said plurality of subareas.

22. The photometric device according to any of claims 18

to 21, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area of said plurality of photoelectric conversion means or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area, and

values corresponding to the outputs from the respective photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area are used as the photometric results in said subareas.

23. The photometric device according to any of claims 18 to 22, wherein backlight is determined when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists between the photometric result in said predetermined area and a photometric result in a peripheral area around said predetermined area.

24. The photometric device according to 23, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area of said plurality of photoelectric conversion means or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area, and

a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means other than the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said peripheral area.

25. The photometric device according to any of claims 18 to 22, wherein backlight is determined when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists between the photometric result in said predetermined area and a photometric result in said overall area.

26. The photometric device according to claim 25, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area of said plurality of photoelectric conversion means or a value

corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area, and

a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from the photoelectric conversion means in said overall area is used as the photometric result in said overall area.

27. The photometric device according to claim 22, 24, or 26, wherein a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area when at least one of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means is less than a predetermined value, and a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area when all the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means are greater than the predetermined value.

28. A photometric device for performing the steps of:

a) performing photometry in a predetermined area of an overall area where photometry can be performed;

b) setting a reference value for backlight determination based on a difference between the photometric result in said predetermined area and a photometric result in a peripheral area around said predetermined area or a photometric result in said overall area;

c) determining any of a plurality of subareas including an object for which backlight is determined on the basis of information on measured distance in at least a part of said predetermined area, said plurality of subareas being formed by dividing at least a part of said predetermined area; and

d) correcting said reference value based on a photometric result in the subarea including said object.

29. The photometric device according to claim 28, wherein photometry and distance measurement are performed in each of said plurality of subareas.

30. The photometric device according to claim 28 or 29, wherein a detection element for performing distance measurement also performs photometry.

31. The photometric device according to any of claims 28 to 30, wherein said reference value is corrected on the basis of a proportion of the subarea including said object

of said plurality of subareas.

32. The photometric device according to any of claims 28 to 31, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area of said plurality of photoelectric conversion means or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area, and

values corresponding to the outputs from the respective photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area are used as the photometric results in said subareas.

33. The photometric device according to any of claims 28 to 32, wherein backlight is determined when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists between the photometric result in said predetermined area and the photometric result in the peripheral area around said predetermined area.

34. The photometric device according to 33, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area of said plurality of photoelectric conversion means or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area, and

a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means other than the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said peripheral area.

35. The photometric device according to any of claims 28 to 32, wherein backlight is determined when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists between the photometric result in said predetermined area and the photometric result in said overall area.

36. The photometric device according to claim 35, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area of said plurality of photoelectric conversion means or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area, and

a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from the photoelectric conversion means in said overall area is used as the photometric result in said overall area.

37. The photometric device according to claim 32, 34, or 36, wherein a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area when at least one of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means is less than a predetermined value, and a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area when all the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means are greater than the predetermined value.



38. A camera comprising said photometric device according to any of claims 1 to 37, wherein operations for taking pictures are controlled on the basis of at least one of the photometric result in said predetermined area and the backlight determination result.